

# Heard in radio broadcast

## Czech newsmen bow to Communist 'spirit'

By Renato Perez

Czechoslovak journalists, bowing to Communist Party pressure, adopted a resolution pledging to work "in the spirit" of the party and to win citizens to party policy and programs.

The position statement was made in Prague on July 2, following a meeting of Communist party leaders and 500 newsmen. A report on the session was broadcast over Radio Prague and monitored here.

The vote for the resolution was 495 in favor, 1 against and 4 abstentions.

Dr. Gustav Husak, First Secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, addressed the meeting. Over the past 18 months, he said, Czechoslovak society had faced a critical situation, and some journalists had played a negative role in that period.

He criticized the nation's press for not having countered the influence of "sly enemy propaganda from abroad" and for having ignored what he described as the reality of class struggle.

### 'Policy of consolidation'

But, he indicated, things are changing and the number of newspapers supporting Communist Party policy is growing. "The struggle is being won," Dr. Husak stated, "and the anti-Socialist forces do not stand a chance."

He appealed to newsmen to join this "policy of consolidation."

"No one asks the journalists to be servile," he said, "but only to serve the nation and the Communist Party. . . . It is the task of journalists to win people over for the present policy of the Communist Party."

Josef Kempna, secretary of the Central Committee for Ideological Questions, spoke after Dr. Husak. He scored the regime of former President Antonin Novotny for having followed "a rigid, obsolete and stereotyped policy [that] did not take into account the growing influence of the press, radio and television in molding the views and attitudes of citizens." Anti-party and anti-Socialist factions emerged in the press, he said, but state control maintained the appearance of stability.

(Mr. Perez, a member of the New York Times news staff, spent some time in Czechoslovakia a year ago. He maintains a setup at his home for monitoring broadcasts from countries behind the iron curtain.)

The party leadership under Alexander Dubcek abolished this control but, according to Kempna, did not learn from past mistakes and actually continued to make them.

### New concept of press

He then announced that the Party and Government were preparing a new concept of the functions of the press, where the Communist Party would have "a decisive influence" on the contents of the media "without having to introduce preliminary censorship."

The resolution adopted at the meeting claims that the media were "misused to negate all that had been achieved in Czechoslovakia prior to January of 1968 (when Novotny was ousted as party leader)." It assails those "who have attacked the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries, who have allowed themselves to be used for attacks on the Communist Party."

The task of Czechoslovak journalists, it concludes, should be based on the documents adopted by the Party and state bodies.

### 'A positive turning point'

In an editorial broadcast July 3, the Czechoslovak radio hailed the meeting between Communist Party officials and newsmen as "a positive turning point."

Radio Prague described the words of Husak and Kempna as "the most comprehensive policy statements so far outlining the political leadership's attitude toward those who run the press, radio and television."

The editorial quoted Husak as saying that journalists "should be no mere apologists but comrades-in-arms, contributing to the formation of policies in a creative manner." It called the resolution adopted by newsmen a step toward "reconciliation between journalists and the party leadership and an essential pre-condition for the

process of consolidation in Czechoslovakia."

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The Czechoslovak press agency C.T.K. has condemned the writings of its former correspondent in New York, Dr. Karel Kral, according to another Radio Prague newscast.

It has termed an article written by Dr. Kral in *East Europe* as a "gross attack against the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia's alliance with that country."

The article, was an analysis of the events leading to invasion of Czechoslovakia last year by Warsaw Pact troops and of the role played by the Soviet Union.

In August of last year, Dr. Kral was about to leave New York for Prague when the invasion began. Learning the news on his way to Kennedy International Airport, he turned his car around and returned to his Manhattan apartment.

He was recalled from his job on September 9, 1968, because —the Radio Prague newscast said—"he had committed acts incompatible with the honor of a Communist journalist," but did not return to his country. Instead he announced, on January 15 of this year, that he would remain permanently in the United States.